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## A RIGHTEOUS PROTEST.

IN THEIR PROTEST against the ac-  
tion of the county commissioners in  
seeking to compel every individual in  
the county to work eight hours,  
the suffering employees will have the  
thorough sympathy of every member  
of the Ancient Order of the Sons of  
Rest. It certainly is most cruel and in-  
human to expect public officials to  
work in nice, warm offices for as long  
a period as eight hours every day. The  
commissioners are cold-blooded brutes  
for even entertaining such a notion.

Now, if the young men and young  
women in the county offices were mor-  
tormen and mortuaries, it would not be  
too much to expect them to work eight,  
ten, twelve and even fourteen hours  
out of every twenty-four. All a mor-  
tormen has to do is to stand on the  
front platform in the pure, fresh, crisp  
air and twist a brake with one hand  
and a controller with the other. When  
he is hungry, especially on such days  
as yesterday, he can, by the simple  
process of opening his mouth, secure a  
stomach full of snowflakes.

Verily, the lot of the mortormen is a  
light and airy trifle when compared  
with the hardships borne by the county  
employees. They are forced to be in  
their places every morning at 9 o'clock.  
That, in itself, is an outrage most in-  
famous. These cold winter mornings  
it is very hard, indeed, to get up in  
time to reach the joint building by 9  
o'clock, especially if you have been to  
a dance or a social the night before.

And then the poor creatures have to  
labor until it is 5 o'clock in the after-  
noon, with only an hour or so for  
luncheon.

In the words of the popular song,  
"Ain't it a shame?" Even seven hours  
a day are too much in such miserable  
quarters as those furnished by the  
county to its workers. Even though  
one considers that the young men and  
young women have only leather arm  
chairs to sit in, though we remember  
that the sumptuous rooms are heated  
and ventilated to a nicety, we cannot  
help shuddering at the unfortunate pre-  
dicament in which these human beings  
are placed.

Why, six hours a day would be bad  
enough, but why six? What's the mat-  
ter with cutting the time down to five  
and four and three and then to barely  
long enough to sign the monthly pay-  
roll. In the interest of common hu-  
manity, The Herald rises to demand  
this reform. Out upon the brutal com-  
missioners who would have the public's  
employees earn their pay by sweat and  
tears. It is true that lots of other  
people work a great deal harder for  
far less money, but then they are not  
paid out of the public treasury. That  
seems to make considerable difference,  
you know.

## MONUMENT TO LEE.

THIS IS SURELY the age of forgive-  
ness, the age when old feuds and  
animosities are blotted from the pages  
of memory, while peace and love and  
charity take their places. Before the  
legislature of the state of Pennsylvania  
a bill is pending which provides an ap-  
propriation of \$20,000 to aid the state  
of Virginia in erecting a monument to  
the memory of General Robert E. Lee  
on the site of the battle of Gettysburg.

While some differences of opinion as to  
the propriety of the appropriation may  
exist, the spirit which has actuated  
its introduction cannot be regarded  
unfavorably. The author of the mea-  
sure is a Union veteran who fought at  
Gettysburg. It is being espoused by  
A. K. McClure of Philadelphia and  
by other prominent men whose loy-  
alty to the Union during the war of  
the rebellion was beyond the possi-  
bility of question.

And yet, great soldier though he  
was, a kindly, Christian gentleman in  
the best meaning of the expression,  
the leader of the cause that was lost  
is hardly entitled to this posthumous  
recognition at the hands of the men  
with whom he fought. Of all the gen-  
erals the civil war produced, Lee was  
easily the greatest. If he had had the  
resources at the command of Grant  
and, God be thanked, he did not have  
them—that fierce fraternal struggle  
might have resulted differently.

Forty years after the close of the  
conflict the nation can afford to be  
generous and forgiving. We are one  
people, working out our world destiny  
under one flag and working it out  
graciously. There are no sectional dif-  
ferences now, no jealousies, no bitter  
hatreds, and we do not need such an  
evidence as this proposed testimonial  
to General Lee to prove it. Nor do  
we believe a majority of the veterans  
of the Confederacy desire it.

If a monument to Lee is to be placed  
on Gettysburg's blood-soaked soil, let  
it be put there by southern money,  
raised by southern men and women  
who loved and believed in their Chris-  
tian knight and who love and honor  
his memory. If Lee, forgiving and  
forgetful, he would have the people with  
whom and for whom he fought, raise  
this monument or he would have no  
monument at all.

Andrew Smythe, late superintendent  
of the New Orleans mint, will, through  
a recent decision of the supreme court,  
be obliged to pay to the government  
\$125,000 to replace bills which he sym-  
bolically burned. Mr. Smythe has the sym-

pathy. As a usual thing the fellow  
who burns money has at least a head-  
ache to show for it, but he hasn't even  
that.

## "ASSET CURRENCY" BILL.

WASHINGTON DISPATCHES an-  
nounce that the Fowler currency  
bill is almost sure to be passed by the  
lower house of congress this week.  
This much discussed measure has been  
made a continuing order, beginning on  
Wednesday. A continuing order is an  
order that has the right of way over  
all other proposed legislation until it  
has been disposed of. Friends of the  
Fowler bill admit that they will have a  
fight on their hands before they suc-  
ceed in enacting it into law, but they  
claim to have enough votes to pass it.

In the latter assumption they are  
probably correct, for any bill which is  
calculated to add the money merchants  
of the nation is always sure of favor-  
able consideration at the hands of a  
Republican congress. The Fowler bill  
is one of the most pernicious pieces of  
legislation that has ever been at-  
tempted. Under the plea that a more  
elastic currency is needed, Congress-  
man Fowler proposes to turn over to  
the bankers of the country the credit  
of the United States to do with as they  
will.

So thoroughly were the meretricious  
features of the measure ventilated dur-  
ing the last session that, in view of the  
election then imminent, the backers of  
the bill allowed it to repose in a com-  
mitttee pigeonhole until a more reason-  
able time. There is no congressional  
election scheduled for this year, the  
memory of the voting public is not  
very long, and so the "asset cur-  
rency" people feel that they will be  
perfectly safe now in placing the law  
on the federal statutes.

The most important feature of the  
measure is contained in the first sec-  
tion, which provides that "any na-  
tional bank may, with the approval of  
the comptroller of the currency, take  
out for issue and circulation an amount  
of bank notes not exceeding 25 per  
centum of its paid-up and unimpaired  
capital without depositing United States  
bonds with the United States treas-  
ury in the manner provided by  
existing law."

In the event that the bank issuing  
such notes fails, the notes are made a  
preferred claim against the assets of  
the defunct institution. In other words,  
the notes and certificates are held  
by banks are to be made the basis for  
currency issues guaranteed by the  
United States government. The pos-  
sibilities of this provision are admir-  
ably summed up by Charles G. Dawes,  
former comptroller of the currency. He  
says:

"We do not want an asset currency  
that will help us into a panic when  
we are out of one, but an emergency  
currency that will help us out of a  
panic when we are in one." It is clear  
that if the bill is passed the banks will  
be able to enlarge or diminish the cir-  
culation as they see fit. They can issue  
notes and, in the event of their  
failure, they can put the government  
to endless trouble to collect on them.

All bank assets are not immediately  
available as cash. Months are often  
required to turn their securities into  
money, and in the meanwhile the gov-  
ernment will hold the empty sack.  
There are other objectionable features  
in the Fowler bill, and the provision for  
the retirement of the greenbacks, but  
it is idle to hope that this congress  
will eliminate them.

All of the southern senators and con-  
gressmen are extremely indignant be-  
cause the president received negroes at  
his last reception. They declare they  
will never visit the White House again,  
which will be a serious blow to the  
president. By the way, there was more  
truth than poetry in Mr. Dooley's re-  
mark that to get standing with the  
president is necessary to use burnt  
cork liberally.

For the information of an inquirer  
we will say that the lottery tickets  
seized by customs officials at Honolulu  
the other day did not come from the  
office of our esteemed morning con-  
temporary. The Tribune's lottery game  
was concluded some time ago.

Of course, the state senate doesn't  
want to go on any junketing trip, but  
if the house insists, the senate, rather  
than be mean, will yield more or less  
graciously to the inevitable. Mean-  
while the railroads interested are pat-  
ting the senate on the back.

Friends of W. M. Roylance of Provo,  
and they are numerous in Salt Lake  
and elsewhere, will learn with regret  
of his serious illness and will join in  
hoping for his speedy restoration to  
health. Mr. Roylance is entirely too  
good a citizen to lose.

It will be astonishing if Germany  
doesn't hang up the Venezuelan peace  
negotiations with a demand for an ap-  
ology from Castro. The latter certainly  
had no right to allow his people to get  
in the way of the shells from the Ger-  
man warships.

We suggest that Superintendent Reed  
of the street railway company turn the  
system over to some of the chronic  
kickers for a few weeks. Wouldn't it  
be interesting to see how the fellows  
that know all about it would come out?

Some residents of Columbia are kick-  
ing because their congress has not held  
any sessions for several years. Evidently  
those people don't know when they  
are well off.

There is a rumor that the sun is  
shining somewhere but we Salt Lak-  
ers have reached the point where we  
must insist on being "showed."

Flour prices have gone up again on  
the Pacific coast. And the flour isn't  
of the self-raising variety, either.

**Anxious to Please.**  
(Philadelphia Press.)  
"Say," remarked the man in the chair,  
"I wish you'd try to cut me just a little."  
"What?" cried the barber. "Is that a  
joke?"  
"Not a bit of it. You see, my best girl  
gave me a razor for Christmas, and it  
would please her if I could make her  
think I've been trying to shave myself."

## A Beau, All Right.

(Chicago News.)  
"Does your father agree that I am your  
beau?" asked the young man in the pink  
stock.  
"Yes," replied the fair girl.  
"What kind of a beau did he say I was?"  
"A ho-beau."

## SOCIETY.

London, Jan. 17.—The news has been  
wafted over from Paris to friends of  
the happy young people here that Miss  
Mary Young, the accomplished daugh-  
ter of John W. Young, and Mr. Harold  
Eldredge of Salt Lake City are engaged  
to be married. The engagement was  
announced during the holidays.

A jolly party of Utahans enjoying  
in Paris were spending an evening as  
the guests of Mr. Young at his apart-  
ments, and to them the announcement  
of the forthcoming nuptials came in the  
nature of a surprise.

Miss Young and Mr. Eldredge are  
leading members of the Utah colony in  
Paris. Both are talented musically,  
and are prominent socially. It is un-  
derstood that the wedding will take  
place in Utah in the early spring, and  
that preparations are now being made  
for their departure for home for that  
purpose.

The bride-to-be spent many years of  
her early life in London, and she has a  
wide acquaintance here. She has been  
in Paris with her mother since last July,  
when she came from New York. Mr.  
Eldredge has been studying music in  
Paris.

## Communicated.

## OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

To the Salt Lake Herald:  
As the public schools are indicated by  
the state superintendent and the governor  
to be in need of reorganization and read-  
justment, it is perhaps an opportune time  
for citizens and taxpayers to air their  
sentiments on the question.

The free school system is based on the  
idea that it is the duty of the state to  
educate its citizens, and among enlight-  
ened people there is no doubt on the part  
of anybody that this position is a correct  
one. But in the very nature of things the  
moment the state takes control and main-  
tenance of the public schools it agrees,  
or should agree, to make opportu-  
nities equal for all.

There is no reason on earth why  
the school system of the state should  
vision the poor child of a shabby settle-  
ment should not have just the same op-  
portunities to educate his family as the  
poor man of one of the wealthy counties.  
The mere chance of residing in the en-  
vironment of wealth should not be a  
barrier.

But how has our system worked heret-  
ofore under the law enacted by the first  
state legislature? By making the school  
tax partly a district levy, those localities  
where much taxable property is concen-  
trated in small geographical space have  
been enabled to maintain efficient schools  
for the full year, and have their school  
buildings equipped with all the modern  
necessaries to make their work of the  
very best. While the more sparsely settled  
and less wealthy localities have been  
obliged to curtail their work, both in  
time and equipment, and have fallen far  
below the results of their more fortunate  
neighbors.

Seven months of school in the best  
country towns and much less in the  
smaller districts have been the result,  
and the equipment has been proportionate  
to the time. State officials map out nine  
months of school for the entire state,  
but with the utmost cramming it is  
impossible for the short-term districts to  
cover the plan, and by the end of the  
year the rural schoolboy finds himself falling  
behind his grade, and the city school-  
boy finds himself with an inefficient founda-  
tion for the incomplete work of the  
district school.

What should be done? The state  
finds himself very much hampered and  
handicapped through the whole of his  
subsequent career. What should be done?

I can only give my opinion, which I  
fear will not gain the concurrence of  
people of the localities specially favored  
by the present arrangement, but which I  
believe is founded on those broad prin-  
ciples of justice which should govern all  
our laws. First, I would do away with  
the present system of district schools,  
second class or any other class as sepa-  
rate district school entities.

Second, I should be away with county  
school tax, and district school tax, and  
make the whole thing a direct state tax,  
which should be levied without discrimi-  
nation to all districts proportionate to  
their school population.

Third, I should create a state board  
of examiners to pass on the examination pa-  
pers all applicants for positions as in-  
structors in the district schools, thus se-  
curing uniformity of qualification of  
teachers.

Fourth, I should create a state board  
of school architecture, whose duty it would  
be to supervise the construction of new  
school buildings and the remodeling of  
old ones.

Fifth, I should provide for the election  
of county boards of school directors, and  
the state superintendent, or state board,  
such a body were deemed necessary, in  
all those functions in which subordi-  
nation and co-ordination in all those  
functions of a unity look nature.

While such a proposition would no  
doubt meet with just opposition from the  
localities favored by the present ar-  
rangement, I believe that a little impar-  
tial meditation will convince any fair-  
minded person that existing regulations  
are very unfair, and that state super-  
vision and maintenance of public  
schools, or in other words the free school  
system, can only be justly carried out  
when arrangements are made for uni-  
formity of application of it to every part  
of the state.

How practicable such an arrangement  
this would be can be better judged by  
these specially engaged in school work,  
but certainly there should be no hesita-  
tion in making such arrangements to  
make them accord with that broad prin-  
ciple of charity which conceived the idea  
first of all of educating the poor free of  
charge.

Respectfully,  
GEORGE W. MIDDLETON,  
Cedar City, Jan. 25.

## MR. HEWLETT'S POSITION.

To the Salt Lake Herald:  
To an intelligent person reading the pa-  
pers the last few days and reports of the  
proceedings before the senate committee  
on the pure food bill it would look as  
though the manufacturers of baking pow-  
der in the state of Utah were a lot of  
second-rate and were trying to rob the  
public by imposing on them articles of  
food unfit to eat in behalf of the man-  
ufacturers of this state, we desire to en-  
ter our protest against such language and  
the discrimination which is being used  
against us.

The only objection particularly we have  
entered against the food bill is a clause  
in section 20, which gives the food com-  
missioner the power to refuse to issue a  
license to any manufacturer of baking pow-  
der who is found to be guilty of adulteration,  
to discriminate against one product  
in favor of another, which would be  
unjust, and all we wish is that the food  
commissioner's duty shall be fully de-  
fined, as the home manufacturers should  
receive the same treatment as those who  
ship in from eastern and western states.

Mr. Hewlett and Mr. Larsson, seeing the  
justice in this, said they were willing to  
eliminate the clause, come out and say  
that strenuous efforts were made to get  
the manufacturers before the senate com-  
mittee, but they were afraid to appear,  
which is ridiculous and entirely uncal-  
culated to make it unnecessary for our ap-  
pearance, and we sincerely protest  
against such language being used against  
the manufacturers of baking powder in  
the state of Utah, for we claim and can  
demonstrate that our baking powders  
made in this state are just as  
beneficial and a good deal purer than  
those that are imported and sold at a  
higher price, and we are perfectly willing  
that the senate and house pass a law  
demanding that all baking powders man-  
ufactured in Utah and also imported in  
this state shall have their formulas dis-  
closed in large letters on the labels, but we  
do not desire to see the manufacturers of  
Utah labeled their goods with their  
names and not making the same man-  
ufacturers of baking powder manu-  
facturers should be stung out of the state  
by such a law, and we have all food  
product manufacturers print their for-  
mula so people can see what they are  
using.

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